

CBS EVENING NEWS  
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EXPULSION

RATHER: In Oslo today, the message that Norway's foreign ministry delivered to a hastily summoned Soviet ambassador was simple. Five of the diplomats assigned to its embassy were suspected of spying and were ordered expelled immediately. Four others out of the country were barred from returning. A strongly worded protest note accompanied the expulsion message. This tough diplomatic action followed the disclosure 12 days ago that Norwegian foreign ministry official \*Arn Treholt had been working for several years as a secret agent for the Soviet KGB. Norway, which holds down NATO's northern flank, shares a strategic border with the Soviet Union. CBS News recently visited that area, and David Andleman in Paris reports on why the region is so important to the West and to Moscow.

(Footage of training exercises in the snow)

ANDLEMAN: Training exercises along NATO's northernmost frontier, the border between Norway and the Soviet Union, a white desolate wilderness much of the year, an ultimate test of weapons and men on both sides, East and West. The reason this wasteland has become so important lies here, the Russian port of Murmansk and the Kola Peninsula, home for 40 percent of the Soviet navy. In case of war, much of it must exit through what's known as a choke point, a 250-mile channel from the north cape to Spitsbergen. It's here that NATO strategists see their best chance of turning off the Soviet naval threat. If NATO fails, the whole North Atlantic is open season for the Soviets. GEN. ULF BERG (Northern Forces): If we cannot contain the enemy from taking north Norway, he will then be a threat to the, not only to the carriers but all to the vital sea lane of communications from the United States to Europe.

ANDLEMAN: It's an awesome task for the men of Norway's northern command, nearly 20,000 miles of coastline, 150,000 islands, a thousand fjords, some within miles of the Soviet frontier, in short, a nation that's a top target for Soviet civilian and military intelligence. ODDMUND HAMMERSTAD (Dep. Defense Minister): We know that there are some 100 KGB or GLU agents working in Norway.

ANDLEMAN: Each day, Norwegian F-16s scramble from their bases and underground bunkers scattered along the frontier. Norwegian patrols monitor the Soviet shipping that moves routinely through these icy waters. And Norwegian submarines watch their Soviet counterparts in and out of the thousand fjords that could be the perfect hiding place for any Soviet submarine. With no NATO troops, no foreign forces based in Norway, it would be up to the Norwegians to hold the line should Soviet forces attack and hold that line till NATO reinforcements come to the rescue. David Andleman, CBS News, Paris.